



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

September 24, 2007

Reply To
Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 04-046-AFS

Mr. Forrest Cole, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
648 Mission Street
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
P.O. Box 19001

Dear Mr. Cole:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the **final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Kuiu Timber Sale Area (CEQ No. 20070375)** in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

In our comments dated March 20, 2006, EPA expressed environmental concerns with the draft EIS based on the potential for adverse water quality impacts. We also recommended selection of Alternative 2 as we believe it is the environmentally preferred alternative.

The final EIS addresses the majority of our concerns. We commend the Forest Service for discussing short-term impacts to watersheds in more detail in the final EIS, for reiterating that cumulative harvest levels within all watersheds would be less than 12 percent by 2011, including harvest from any of the proposed alternatives, and for including a discussion of the timeframe when mass movement would likely occur, as recommended. While we would still support the selection of Alternative 2 as the environmentally preferred alternative that would reducing impacts to wildlife, hydrology, and fisheries as well as minimize adverse impacts to wetlands, we understand the rationale for the choice of Alternative 4 as the proposed action in the final EIS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the final EIS. Please feel free to contact Fatima Bukhari at (907) 271-1481 or by electronic mail at bukhari.fatima@epa.gov or me at (206)553-1601 with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine Reichgott, Manager
NEPA Review Unit